

TO: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE  
P. O. BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

Application No.: :

**PETITION TO MAKE**

Inventor: Elefante :

**SPECIAL**

Filing Date: :

Title: Method and Apparatus for Recovery  
of Prohibited Items :

10/01/2003 STEUKEL1 00000034 10671148  
01 FC:1460 130.00 OP

Examiner: :

Art Unit: :

**PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.181**

Now comes the applicant and petitions the Commissioner to have this application made special and accelerate the prosecution, as provided for in MPEP 708.02XI

The following statement is made in support of this petition.

This application claims an apparatus and a method of use of that apparatus to facilitate the security screening of passengers before boarding common carriers such as air lines. At present, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), division of the Department of Homeland Security, is responsible for personal searches of potential passengers at locations such as airports. The searches are conducted before the potential passengers can enter the secure area surrounding

the boarding gates to the airplanes. Certain items have been declared as threats to the safety of the flights, crews and passengers. These items are subject to confiscation, if found in the personal possession of a potential passenger. A huge number of confiscated items are collected by the TSA and must be dealt with which costs large numbers of man-hours.

While these prohibited items may be small and, for the most part, benign, they may have sentimental or monetary value of much larger proportion.

Usually, the potential passenger may retain the prohibited item if he can make other arrangements for the transportation of the item such as checking the item as baggage or leaving the item behind in care of someone else. However, these alternatives are not always available.

It is believed that a majority of the prohibited items confiscated result from the situation in which the potential passenger is not aware of the dangerous nature of the item, as seen by the TSA and arrive at the security check point innocently. Further, there are a number of prohibited items that pass through the security check points, undiscovered by the TSA personnel, because the passengers did not have the time or desire to make alternative arrangements and decided to test the system.

The claims of this application recite a device and methods for facilitating a convenient alternative arrangement whereby the passenger may relieve himself of the prohibited items, at, or in the immediate vicinity of the security check point and continue on the flight. The claims include a kiosk and materials for correlating the item and passenger, packaging, and separately shipping the item to a desired location. The methods include steps whereby the item stays in the control of the TSA personnel until transferred to the shipping agent. It is believed that passengers will volunteer to surrender items, not found, and ship items found.

The implementation and installation of this invention will reduce the number of items

confiscated and reduce the number of passengers that test the system thereby making the security screening more efficient and accurate. This will also reduce the number of items the TSA must handle.

The proper petition fee is attached hereto.

For these reasons, the applicant asks that the petition be granted.

McHale & Slavin, P. A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. Fred Rosenbaum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "C" at the beginning.

C. Fred Rosenbaum

Reg. No. 27110